Daily Report

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Cuba

Removal of Central American Advisers Possible

PA2800172 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said in Montevideo shortly before leaving for Argentina that if the Central American presidents decide to remove foreign military advisers from the region, Cuba and Nicaragua would be willing to reach a decision in this regard.

This is one way the Cuban Government is prepared, as it has always been, to support and participate in the peace process in the strife-ridden region, he said. Responding to a question from a U.S. correspondent on the subject of human rights, Malmierca said there is every indication that Washington will present a draft resolution to the UN Commission in Geneva accusing Cuba of alleged human rights violations. The Cuban foreign minister noted that Ronald Reagan's government had previously tried to have Cuba condemned, but failed because the commission decided not to discuss the subject. We are certain, Malmierca said, that if the United States proceeds as planned, the 1987 story will be repeated even more forcefully.

Further on Malmierca Remarks

FL2802061 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said today in Uruguay that if the Central American presidents decide to remove foreign military advisers from the region, Cuba and Nicaragua would agree on sending Cuban military advisers home.

The Cuban foreign minister also said that if it is decided to reduce the number of military advisers, the two countries would be willing to accept and respect the agreement.

Malmierca spoke at a news conference at the Cuban Embassy in Montevideo just before his departure for Argentina.

This is one of the ways in which the Cuban Government is willing to support and participate in a peace process in Central America, Malmierca added.

Guadeloupe

Police Investigate Bomb Explosions in 3 Towns

FL2713531 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In Guadeloupe, police are investigating a series of bombings that took place on Monday night. There were no injuries. The bombs exploded in three towns. The damage was said to be light in the attacks which appeared to be directed at prominent figures who seemed to be representatives of the French establishment. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombings but similar incidents in the past have either been claimed by or linked to pro-independence activists. The last bombings were November of 1986, when 19 bombs exploded in various locations.

Armed Group Urges Independence

LD2810043 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Two days after a series of attacks in Guadeloupe, which did not cause any casualties, a hitherto unknown group has issued a call for independence. In a communique, the Revolutionary Armed Organization says it will attack the foreign occupier wherever he may be. The organization pays tribute to the militants of the former Caribbean Revolutionary Alliance, the main leaders of which are currently in prison.

Drivers Union Not To Strike 28 Jan

FL2719101 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The call for a strike issued by the Committee for Democratic Agreement has caused much public reaction.

Much of the population is tired of a certain state of affairs, and is determined to see the country regain its calm. These people are vigorously opposed to all kinds of demonstrations, which they say have no reason for being. Many sectors are wondering how well-founded the strike scheduled for tomorrow is. They say they don't think the strike should be held—that it will lead to nothing. They even recall the harm done to the country, especially the Haitian economy, by last summer's general strikes, with all the attendant disorders. [passage omitted]

In fact, alarmed by the disorderly situation and aware of their duty as citizens, two members of the Independent Union of Professional Drivers [Sendika Endepandan Chofe Profesyonel] came by the radio station to state their opinion of the call for a strike tomorrow. We will have you listen to them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] I appeal to all [words indistinct] the Artibonite, l'Estere, Marchand [Dessalines], Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite, Verrettes, Liancourt, Pont Sonde, Villard, (Larate), Fabias, Desdunes—I ask you all to work tomorrow.

The fellows calling the strike have been in good financial shape for a long time already. Their freezers are filled with meat. It is you workers who (?are suffering). We should not have to suffer anymore. A president has come to power, has been elected. Now we should wait to see what the president does to see (?if he will provide jobs),

especially you in the Artibonite plain—to see if he does anything about the contraband so that our rice will sell, so that the Madan Gougousse [a type of locally grown rice] can sell.

We have to stop striking. There will be no strike tomorrow. I am asking all drivers everywhere, all workers to go to their jobs. The police will provide security. As for the strike, there will be no more strikes like that in this country. I am not saying there won't be any strikes. Maybe from time to time there will be a strike, but [words indistinct]

The bigshots sit back, with their freezers full of meat, [words indistinct] while we are the ones you see on television being beaten up and shot at. When you are hurt, not one of those leaders will send you so much as a cigarette while you are in the hospital. If you get hurt you have to cope all by yourself.

Mr (Edgard Louis) would like to add something.

[(Louis)] We of the independent union of Carrefour are shouldering our responsibility. There will be approximately 800 men out on the streets working tomorrow, God willing. We are not going to go on strike. We will absolutely not in any way participate in any strike at all. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So you are asking the Army to provide security for you?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, to provide security for us. [end recording] [passage omitted]

CED Lifts Strike

FL2718S7 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] We just received, at 1242 hours, a press release announcing the lifting of the strike that had been called by the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED].

The CED's communique announces that after thoroughly discussing the matter and exchanging views with numerous union and socio-professional groups, and in full agreement with these groups, the CED has decided to postpone, for the time being, the general strike it had called for Thursday, 28 January 1988.

To maintain the call for this strike risked interfering with other legal action that is being taken against the unconstitutional blow of 17 January 1988.

The battle for democracy and to have the Constitution respected has only just begun. Remain mobilized and attentive to new watchwords.

For the press committee: [signed] (Raymond Piou) and Arnold Antonin.

United Front for Change Rejects Election

FL2721A Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Jan 88

[All passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The National United Front for Change, which is made up of several organizations, held a news conference yesterday to say no to the results of the 17 January elections.

[Reporter] "The National United Front for Change held a news conference this morning [26 January] at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel to discuss Haiti's political situation, particularly the results of the 17 January elections.

"The Front is made up of several organizations and representatives from several of those groups spoke at the news conference, such as Abner Lamour, who represents Onnadej [National Organization for the Defense of the Young]; Fritz Antoine Thebaud for the Committee for the Defense of the Haitian Consumer; Dr Sylvain Jolibois for the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector; and (Fritznel) for the Association of Highly-Qualified Solderers (Fils Aime Clerge) also spoke on behalf of the Onajac [Oganizasyon Nasyonal Asosyasyon Jivenil Alfabetizasyon avek Konsyantizasyon—National Organization of Literacy and Awareness-Raising Youth Groups] in Les Cayes.

"The National United Front for Change thinks it is necessary and important for the Haitian people to form a new, civilian, provisional government, a government that is independent of political parties and presidential candidates. They called on all Haitian organizations to sit down together to form such a militant government.

"The Front also said: January 17 occurred because we did not unite and now they want to force Leslie Manigat on us. "When I asked them if they thought it would be easy to form a provisional government despite the fact that a president has allegedly come out of the 17 January elections, here is what they answered."

[Unidentified speaker] "Easy is a term that we can totally forget about. We can scratch it from our vocabulary because the struggle is difficult and is going to become increasingly difficult. But then, (?I) don't need for anything to be easy. However, I must say that the possibilities have increased enormously. Why? Because before, we knew that many people were hungry for power. Each group had its own little government in its pocket and would pull it out and call everyone to come applaud it. No more. Now, almost all of the opposition groups—and we must

admit this—have been vanquished. And they have to admit that they aren't holding victory in the palm of their hand. Of course, the Haitian people are more united.

"This is the first time in the history of Haiti—which has had many ups and downs and much ugliness—that we see an election held with less than 1 percent of the people voting, despite all the government propaganda. [passage omitted]

"Now the people have joined together. All Haitians are against the so-called elections held on 17 January."

[Reporter] "The front also said that the Haitian people should take their fate into their own hands and not wait for foreign governments to recognize our government. The group repeated that it is against all foreign intervention and asked foreign governments to let the Haitian people go their own way.

"One of the spokesmen discussed the Catholic Church and asked the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] to set forth its position more clearly and to say whether or not it intends to recognize the new president. The front also suggested that the church refuse to hold the te deum for the inauguration of this new president.

"In the economic sphere, they asked all foreign countries to cut off all the economic aid they give Haiti. It is never the masses who really benefit from this aid anyway, says the front."

[Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] "Three-fourths of the Haitian people do not buy in supermarkets, but this aid in the form of food is on sale in all the Value Supermarkets. That is where the foreign aid is sold and, to boot, it is more expensive than the merchandise imported into Haiti. [passage omitted]"

Lastly, they said they would not reveal how they would struggle, but that they were going to contact other groups in the country and the CED [Committee for Democratic Agreement] in order to form a militant government to hold elections in keeping with the Constitution of 1987.

Note Calling for New Government Circulated

FL2720187 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Report by Cap Haitien correspondent (Gerard Mesidor)]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] For the past few days, since (?17 January) 1988, a note has been circulating among several peasant groups in the Department of the North.

The note ("begins) "Dear brothers and sisters of the civilian society and military brothers who have a Christian conscience. Here are some more excerpts from the note.

First of all, the note says that the juncture is serious and the situation unclear. We are being hit left and right by people who are out to destroy our nation. The note says that 17 (?January) 1988 was a day of mourning, a day of sorrow, a day on which a handful of people sought to bury Haiti.

Since we have been struggling for 2 years with a provisional government that has brought us only misfortune and death and sown terror and (?ripped) the country into little pieces, and since that government's mandate ends on 7 February, we ask it to transfer power to another provisional government, a government that comes from the people that have been struggling for democracy and whom the majority of the Haitian people already know.

For this, the Committee for Democratic Agreement should be given the mission of choosing four prominent figures to make up the new provisional government. This provisional government should have a 9-month mandate in which to establish peace and hold elections.

On 6 August, the new Haitian Government to come out of elections held after those 9 months could be sworn in and its mandate could end on 7 February 1991.

Further on, the note says that in order for the provisional government not to go astray, a constitutional council or watchdog group should be formed. It should be made up of the five members of the Constitutional Assembly, the people who wrote the Constitution of 1987.

We have given you the most essential points of this note, which appeared after 17 January 1988 and is circulating among several peasant groups in the Department of the North. The document already bears 6,832 signatures.

This note has been seen in several communes, in several rural sections of the Department of the North. [passage omitted]

Senators, Deputies Given Registration Deadline

FL2720147 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The committee in charge of managing the interests of the legislative chamber reminds all senators and deputies elected in the 17 January 1988 elections that their names must be entered in the registers in the proper section at the Legislative Palace, which is on the Bicentennaire.

They must come register at the Legislative Palace.

Registration will take place from the issuance of this communique until 1400 tomorrow, 28 January.

The parties concerned may bring, if necessary, copies of all documents proving that they have been elected deputy or senator. [sentence as heard]

The news release is signed by (Lucellan Jabouin), (Eddy Cova), and (Marc Eddy Toussaint).

The communique was seen and approved by Major General Williams Regala, Haitian Armed Forces, minister of interior and national defense.

Budget Secretary on Economic Solidarity Pact

PA151753 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1513 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Monterrey, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Next week the Mexican Government will sell 100 parastate companies, Planning and Budget Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella has reported.

During a meeting with industrialists, and labor and political leaders in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, Aspe Armella said the Economic Solidarity Pact [PSE] is vital for halting inflation which is threatening the development process of the whole country. He added that all economic sectors should commit themselves to ensure this Pact's application.

During a meeting to present and analyze the PSE, the official warned that the country's economic situation is serious, but could be worse if we don't follow these policies. He said: This is not a mythical threat but something very concrete and real.

He explained the inflationary process which presently affects the country is not the result of excessive demand, as could have been the case in early 1982, but a direct effect of inflationary inertia. He added that should this inertia not be eliminated, it could cause the consumer price index to soar to levels of 200 or 300 percent by the end of this year.

He emphasized that the PSE, as an instrument of concerted social action, is the only real option available to the country to face possible hyperinflation. This is the only option, since the Pact is the result of an analysis of the three alternatives which were proposed when the annual inflation rate exceeded 100 percent.

Aspe said the options were recession, crash programs, and a concerted social plan. The latter was finally the one applied. He stated clearly that the first option was not viable because inflation does not result from an excess in demand. On the other hand, the second option would be popular because it would keep prices and wages the same, but nothing would be gained.

He maintained that the PSE turned out to be the one chosen because through it, all national sectors become involved, in a coordinated manner, in the determination and acceptance of price increases.

Furthermore, Aspe said the recent 85 percent price and tariff increase in the public sector allowed a leveling of the inflation index, as these prices were lagging behind in relation to the index.

He stated that with strict compliance with the goals and objectives of the PSE, the monthly inflation rates will be 2 or 3 percent by the end of the year. From December to December, the annual inflation rate will fluctuate between 65 and 75 percent.

He announced that the federal budget for the state governments will increase nominally. This is due to the actual increase in the tariffs for public sector services, which will bring in additional revenue for the federal government.

The state secretary insisted that the budget deficit could be reduced by selling nonstrategic parastate companies. He warned strategic companies that Article 28 of the Constitution did not give them carte blanche for inefficiency and unproductivity.

Comparison of Presidency Communique on Economy

Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish on 4 January carries on page 3 the text of the Presidency's economic communique on the economy. EL NACIONAL'S version has been compared with the Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television Spanish version published in the 5 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 10, revealing the following variations.

Column two, paragraph one, line eleven reads in EL NACIONAL: ...ports, and customs. [new graf]

3. To complement this (supplying missing number, rearranging paragraphing) Page 11, column one, paragraph two, last line reads in EL NACIONAL: ...and priority nature. [new graf] 10. The Commission for Follow-up and Evaluation of the Economic Solidarity Pact [Comision de Seguimiento y Evaluacion del Pacto de Solidaridad Economica] was installed on 30 December at the Labor and Social Welfare Secretariat. The commission, composed of the government, labor, peasant, and managerial sectors, has already approved its working rules and specified the contents of the basic consumer basket. [new graf]

The commission will maintain a constant dialogue with all parties concerned and will consistently seek agreement with the workers, peasants, and businessmen to permit constant progress to be made—through everybody's compliance—in the process of redressing the nation's economy. [new graf]

The basic consumer basket consists of 75 of the most important consumer goods and services, which represent 50 percent of the expenses of families whose income is the minimum salary. It is composed of foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco, and other expense items such as power and other housing services, equipment, household appliances, cleaning products, medicine, products for personal hygiene and care, transportation, education, and recreation.

The basic consumer basket will be used to establish a staple price index in advance. Beginning 1 March 1988, this index will be used for a monthly review of minimum salaries in accordance with the foreseeable evolution of such an index. (supplying additional passage)

Honduras

Azcona Knows 'Nothing' of Downed Contra Plane

PA270545 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Report by David Romero]

[Text] The president of the Republic has stated that he knows nothing about a plane belonging to the Nicaraguan counterrevolution that was shot down in Nicaragua and that, according to statements by spokesmen for the Sandinist government, came from Swan [El Cisne] Island.

As usual, the president said he knows nothing, although international dispatches state the opposite.

[Begin recording] [Azcona] I know nothing about that.

[Romero] You have no official reports, Engineer?

[Azcona] All I know is what was reported in yesterday's newspapers. [end recording]

The president also noted he knows nothing about a warning from the Nicaraguan Government that if the United States continues to channel military supplies to the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, it would summon regional rulers to a meeting in Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] [Azcona] I have not heard of any such statement by the Nicaraguan president.

[Romero] However, if this is true, would you be willing to attend such a meeting?

[Azcona] I have always attended meetings called for by a majority. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

General Denies Reports on New Contra 'Base'

PA261931 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, has denied reports that a new anti-Sandinist military base has been built in Honduras.

Following the inauguration of the 1988 legislature of the National Congress, the military man rejected reports concerning the construction of a hospital and landing strip in Sangrelaya, Colon Department.

Communists disseminate this kind of information to harm Honduras, the military leader said.

Santiago Matamoros, president of the Rio Blanco Coffee Growers Board, told our Olancho correspondent, Omar Sail Mejia, that the contras arrived in Sangrelaya with tractors and trucks to establish a camp that includes a small airport and a hospital.

The Armed Forces commander stated: There are no contra bases in Honduras. Interested parties who play the Sandinists' game are the only ones who are claiming this. Such extreme reports cannot be confirmed but do discredit Honduras at the international level.

Nicaragua

RN Cease-Fire Delegation Arrives in San Jose

PA271230 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1214 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] cease-fire commission arrived last night in Costa Rica to begin negotiations with representatives of the Nicaraguan Government. The talks are scheduled to start tomorrow. The RN delegation includes: Roberto Urroz, Jaime Morales Carazo, Fernando Aguero, also known as Commander Tono; and the advisers (?Admiral) Ramon Emilio Jimenez and Gonzalo J. Facio.

The RN cease-fire commission will express the stand of the Nicaraguan rebel groups to seek the establishment of the democratization process in Nicaragua in following the Esquipulas II peace plan.

The Nicaraguan Sandinist Government delegation that will negotiate a cease-fire with the RN, as part of the peace plan commitments, will arrive this morning. The delegation is led by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and includes Ricardo Wheelock as well as foreign advisers. Nicaraguan Ambassador Claudia Chamorro confirmed last night. She said the delegation will arrive on a regular COPA [Panamanian Aviation Company] flight. The delegation members will begin meeting with Costa Rican authorities this afternoon, and tomorrow, they will begin negotiations with the RN cease-fire commission.

Further Reportage on Ortega Visit to Spain

Speaks to Media With Gonzalez

PA271750 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1148 GMT 27 Jan 88

[News conference by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and President Daniel Ortega with international and national journalists at unnamed location in Madrid on 27 January—live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...we want to provide you with important details concerning the historical importance of the Central American [word indistinct] to strengthen peace and democracy.

We are pleased with our conversations with President [title as heard] Felipe Gonzalez, with Vice President [title as heard] Alfonso Guerra, with whom we talked for long time, and with other Spanish Government officials. We are certain that Spain, as Prime Minister Gonzalez stated last night, will actively participate in the Central American peace efforts, as I said before.

[Moderator] I think we are ready to open the question and answer period of this news conference. Let us begin.

[Miguel Gonzalez] I am Miguel Gonzalez from [name indistinct]. President Ortega has made a brief assessment of his visit to Spain. I would like to ask Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez a specific [words indistinct]. The first is whether the Spanish Government is willing to participate in the unilateral verification commission that Nicaragua will create in case it is not possible to create a commission in accordance with the Central American agreements.

The second question is whether the Spanish prime minister is willing to visit Central America in the next few months in case his physical presence there is suitable for reaching a negotiated solution of the current conflict.

[Gonzalez] I will begin by answering the second question. I wish and plan to visit Central America, although we do not know the dates yet. Therefore, there would not be a cause-and-effect relationship. To answer the first question, I will again discuss what Spain's attitude has been both currently as well as the attitude I hope will continue to exist in the future concerning the Central American conflict. We believe that the regional response to that regional conflict is adequate. Therefore, we have supported and continue to support the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups. As I noted before, a few months ago we met with President Arias, who formulated the peace plan that led to the meeting in Esquipulas within that framework of regional efforts. As you must recall, we supported that peace plan.

Spain has naturally stated many times that [words indistinct] of solidarity and support to the valuable work done by countries like Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and subsequently by the member states of the Support Group. In addition, Spain has also said that if the Central American countries agree to this, it is willing to more actively participate in those peace efforts. This is the first portion of my statement in answer to your first question.

As on previous occasions, we gave President Ortega our opinion of the response to the regional conflict. President Ortega offered us the possibility of participating in the verification process, not to replace other groups, but rather to add some new elements to those that have already been members of the verification commission. Such participation would be similar to the participation of extraregional countries including Canada and Spain [as heard] and the participation of international political organizations from all [word indistinct] including Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, and Liberals.

We agree to participate in that commission. Obviously, we will discuss it with the Central American presidents, as we told President Ortega, to find out whether they desire the formation of a verification commission with Spain's participation.

[Words indistinct] we have been invited by President Ortega to participate in verifying Nicaraguan compliance with Esquipulas II. Therefore, this is a unilateral invitation made by Nicaragua to Spain to participate in the verification of what Nicaragua has decided to do within the spirit of Esquipulas II and the Contadora Group: a cease-fire dialogue with the contra movement, amnesty, and political dialogue with the opposition political forces. Well, Spain is willing to participate to whatever degree is necessary in verifying the cease-fire accords, agreements for ending war and violence that we wish the region to attain.

I also told President Ortega that in the next few days I will try to speak with the Central American presidents to learn their opinion before taking any unilateral steps. We wish to maintain good relations with the Central American presidents, who have visited us and with whom we have spent some time, as well as with those who will visit us in the future. We have analyzed the regional situation and we have clearly observed their willingness to move toward regional peace. Therefore, we will speak with the other Central American presidents. We told President Ortega we are willing to participate in a verification commission, but not with the intention of replacing anyone. It would be absurd to have an extraregional presence and not to have a regional one.

Before President Ortega's visit, I spoke with President de la Madrid about this over the telephone when he passed through Spain. I will try to talk with him again. I will also soon meet with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, and I will try to speak with those who are politically responsible for the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups.

[David Gonzalez] My name is David Gonzalez of Radio Nacional de Espana. Have you reached any agreements for additional Spanish aid for Nicaragua during these talks?

[Gonzalez] The purpose of President Ortega's visit was not to reach any agreements. We have economic cooperation with Nicaragua similar to ours with other friendly Central American nations. As you know, in the last few months we made certain decisions beyond or along with economic cooperation concerning food supplies and other needs caused by the crisis and violent situation that Nicaragua is experiencing.

We are willing to continue our economic cooperation with Nicaragua, although discussing this topic was not the objective of this meeting. We are willing to continue this cooperation, in accordance with established guidelines concerning the international foreign debt and the interests of the two countries. Economic trade relations are normally marked by exchange relations, and cooperation must be based on specific matters. To put this in graphic terms, the volume of cooperation with Nicaragua is smaller than our level of cooperation with Guatemala, and it is similar or slightly larger than our level of cooperation with Costa Rica. This is just to give you a more specific idea of this.

However, we have continued, continue, and will continue this cooperation, which was not a topic of discussion at this meeting.

[Jauregui] My name is Fernando Jauregui, of EL PAIS. I would like to ask President Gonzalez a question and President Ortega another, if you would allow me to. I would like to ask President Gonzalez the following: Are you planning to inform your European counterparts and President Reagan about the results of your meeting with President Ortega, and if so, when? I would like to ask President Ortega this: [passage indistinct] It is believed that in a previous meeting with the news media, ("you) have discussed the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Freedom]. The reports are rather confusing. If you do not mind, I would like you to repeat what [words indistinct]. Thank you.

[Gonzalez] Obviously, I will gladly have the chance to speak with European political leaders in a few days. We will have a summit meeting in a few days, in early February. However, I will have the opportunity to speak with some of them before that. During the economic cooperation meetings, we will explain our stand, and we have traditionally been doing this. In the next days, we will use the European mechanisms. I must also say that there will be another meeting in late February. It has already been decided that during that meeting, we would again review cooperation between the EEC and the Central American region. As you know, the Contadora and Support Groups will participate in this meeting. The ministers' meeting will be held in the EEC very soon. We will review cooperation between the EEC and Central America, and we will also analyze the process we started last year concerning the quasi-institutionalization of relations between the continent [Latin America] and the EEC. I will have the chance to and will do this in the upcoming meetings.

Also, I have no plans to establish immediate contact with President Reagan. However, if we get the chance to do so, as we have done before on other occasions, we will gladly share our views with the U.S. Administration. If we could do that soon, we would do it, and we have traditionally done this. We continue to disagree on major points. However, I must say that the U.S. Administration has maintained a climate of respect for Spain. I think that this is worthy of praise.

[Ortega] As for the second question, Nicaragua has stated and confirmed to the international community, through various means and forums, that it rejects any sort of terrorist act. We feel that here in Spain, where a very broad democratic system exists with the support of the Spanish people, [words indistinct] Spanish people—there is no room for this sort of violence here.

[EL PAIS reporter] I would like to ask President Gonzalez to provide more details [20 second break in reception]. And I would like to ask the Nicaraguan president: Considering the situation in your own country and in El Salvador, do you believe there is a possibility within the Central American peace process to change the constitutional framework of the countries to allow political maneuvering room for the rebel sectors operating in each country? Thank you. [Gonzalez] I want to follow the chronological order of the situation. I want to make clear what President Ortega has proposed to me and how I responded, just in case there is any doubt. As for the regional verification commission based on the agreements adopted in August and reiterated in January—this presently lies in the hands of the Central American foreign ministers. President Ortega said he views as positive Canada's proposal to participate if it were requested to do so. He also said he regards as positive Spain's attitude concerning its own participation, in addition to those members of the region, from the Contadora Group, the Support Group, [words indistinct] Central American foreign ministers, the OAS, and the United Nations. He proposes that Spain should participate if it is requested to, and added that it would be interesting if, within the political ("spectrum), representatives of the international parties also participate.

I will reply on what what concerns us. It is obvious that for Spain to participate, there must be agreement at the regional level. This desire must logically be expressed by the presidents of the region. This is therefore very clear.

Nicaragua's second proposal concerns its willingness to be inspected even if no agreement is reached on the existence of any verification commission. It is willing to be inspected by all the organizations and bodies that now compose the verification commission. It requests that Canada, Spain, and international political organizations [words indistinct] be added to that verification commission solely for Nicaragua. Our reply is that we are willing to do so, to verify compliance with the commitments the Nicaraguan Government undertook within the spirit of Esquipulas. I add to this that I am going to consult with the people who have so far been the protagonists—and I hope they will continue to be so—of the pacification effort, so this will not be carried out unilaterally. I am willing to do this. I have clearly stated that I want to speak with the Central American presidents and to the presidents of the Contadora and Support Groups.

[Words indistinct] we will be there. I am willing to participate in the verification, and I must add that I think Nicaragua's attitude of stating its desire to be inspected is courageous and honorable. I want it to be proven that what it says becomes a concrete reality, meaning not only does it say something, but what it says will become a concrete reality. Those who know me will understand very well what I will now say. I will not add anything else to that point. Sometimes one has the feeling that all the extraordinarily praiseworthy efforts to guarantee peace and democratization in the region are efforts that have a—let us say—preeminent point of reference. We all know that this preeminent point of reference is Nicaragua. Let us say it will be used to gauge all the aspects of the process, the pacification, democratization, etc. That is the greatness and the burden that may fall on a government such as Nicaragua's. It has to know that it is the objective, the [words indistinct], and the point of reference for a process that undoubtedly affects other countries of the region.

[Ortega] The situations in El Salvador and Nicaragua concerning the existence of armed groups in the two countries are not symmetrical. This is because the Salvadoran situation dates back to a much earlier point than the Nicaraguan revolution. Even President Duarte was an ally of the FMLN up to 1979; he was an ally of the revolutionary organizations that struggled against the oligarchy and the military regime in El Salvador. However, in Nicaragua, we are facing a force that is organized and supported by a foreign power—the United States.

In the Esquipulas document, we Central American presidents promised to take immediate steps to agree on a cease-fire. In compliance with this agreement, Nicaragua is today sending its delegation to San Jose, Costa Rica, so that these talks will begin tomorrow.

El Salvador is also committed to taking the pertinent steps to agree on a cease-fire.

As for the domestic aspects concerning each the institutional framework of each country, the agreements respect that framework. The recommendations include a political dialogue with the civic opposition groups or disarmed groups, within each country's institutional framework. Therefore, it is not a matter of now reforming the institutional framework of each state, but rather, first of all, of taking the pertinent steps to make the cease-fire a reality. [Words indistinct] seek an agreement through talks in order to agree on a cease-fire.

Each Central American country is obliged to guarantee the security of those who have proposed a cease-fire, those who have been asked to accept an amnesty and disarm themselves. In other words, those accepting this peace process will not be killed in any Central American country. However, this must be guaranteed by each government. The Salvadoran Government will have to decide what to do in order to prevent murders that immediately create mistrust and a lack of security, as happened with the murder of the president of the Human Rights Commission after the signing of the Esquipulas agreements.

The Honduran Government must also take steps to prevent murders such as the one that took occurred on the night of 14 January, when the vice president of the Human Rights Association in San Pedro Sula, Honduras was killed.

This type of criminal activity does not occur in Nicaragua. The government has managed to exert control in this regard. That is why we have prisoners in Nicaragua. There are prisoners in Nicaragua, because people who are arrested are not murdered, even if they are involved in armed activities. Instead, they are put in jail and tried. The opposition groups in our country and the human rights organizations that criticize the Nicaraguan Government cannot say that any of their members have been killed in our country. In Nicaragua, bishops, priests, members of human rights groups, or leaders of the opposition political groups are not murdered. However, this problem does exist in other Central American countries, despite the goodwill of their presidents.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] of participating or taking part in the verification commission?

[Ortega] The Central American countries have historical ties with Spain, a country they trust and with whom they maintain friendly relations. Therefore, I believe that no Central American country would object to Spain's participation, thus complementing the regional effort of the Contadora and Support Groups.

Canada, a country with an independent position in favor of peace and democracy, has been contributing to the efforts in Central America. The Canadian foreign minister recently visited our country. On that occasion, we discussed this subject, because at that time the on-site inspection was pending, since it required the participation of experts. In their meetings, the Central American foreign ministers discussed the possibility of requesting Canada, Spain, and some Nordic and European countries to help with the on-site inspection, since the control mechanisms would require experts. Therefore, we discussed that matter with the Canadian foreign minister, and Canada has expressed its willingness to help. I do not believe that any Central American government would view this positive gesture from Spain or Canada as an offensive action.

[Reporter] I have a question for President Ortega. Is there already an statement or reply to your invitation to the Socialist International, the Liberal International, and the International Christian Democracy to participate in the verification group?

[Ortega] This pertains to the cease-fire issue. This proposal was presented on 21 January in San Jose, Costa Rica in the presence of Mr Wischnewski and Cardinal Obando y Bravo when we made an attempt to meet with representatives of the U.S. Government—which is supporting the contras—who refused to meet with Nicaraguan Government representatives.

I discussed this with Prime Minister Gonzalez so that he can convey this to the Socialist International. We are also making contacts with other international organizations. In Italy, I will have the opportunity to exchange views with genuine Christian Democrats on this matter. I understand that they are willing to cooperate in this effort. [Words indistinct] I have held extensive talks with Christian Democratic leaders who have visited Nicaragua, and I have exchanged views with Mr (Piccoli), who has been [word indistinct] there on several occasions. We have held good, frank, direct, and open talks. I believe they would be willing to help.

[Elena Vives] Elena Vives of EFE. I would like to ask the Spanish prime minister what form Spain's presence on the verification commission will take? ("Will there be advisers or military and") I would like to ask the Nicaraguan president—and he will pardon me for this question—I wish to know if you continue to maintain statements made to a Madrid newspaper from Managua concerning the Spanish ambassador [words indistinct].

[Gonzalez] I hope you can easily understand that it is premature to answer that question. I just received the proposal [words indistinct] we must review it.

[Ortega] [Sentence indistinct]

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of THE WASHINGTON POST. I wish to ask President Ortega how your government will react should the U.S. Congress approve humanitarian and military aid for the contras next week?

[Ortega] This does not involve the reaction of the Nicaraguan Government. This concerns the reaction of the American people, the international community, and the Central American presidents. Until a vote is taken, I believe we must make maximum efforts to prevent the U.S. Government from introducing this request, in other words, [words indistinct] we are obliged to work to prevent President Reagan from presenting this request until the last minute, to ensure that he respects the accords the Central American presidents agreed upon.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of newspaper LE MONDE. I address my question to the Spanish prime minister. I wish to ask him whether he believes it is feasible or desirable for the EEC to assume a greater role in the Central America peace efforts. Do you believe that you could lead the EEC to do so?

[Gonzalez] I have defended as desirable and feasible a greater EEC presence in the Central American region, as well as relations with the entire Latin American continent. I believe that our efforts to develop what we call political cooperation, a joint EEC foreign policy, are of great interest and are necessary for Europe.

Spain is not only interested in maintaining a greater presence and closer ties in view of [regional] problems faced by Central America, such as the problems of peace and development, as well as those affecting the continent, such as the problems of debt and development. It is also interested in supporting democratic stability on the continent.

I am discussing European interests. Right now, I am not even replying from the viewpoint of a moral discourse. When I say that I am discussing European interests, I wish to make clear that the specific, economic interests in the trade relations of several European countries are larger than Spain's interests both in volume and percentage. That is why I say that I am answering on behalf of immediate and future European interests.

For cultural, historical, and political reasons, Latin America is the part of the world that most closely identifies itself with European culture, traditions, and political attitudes. Therefore, if someone considered a medium or long-term political strategy, he would undoubtedly conclude that the presence and strengthening of European-Latin American relations is important for Europe and the entire Latin American continent, especially Central America.

[Reporter] My name is [name and affiliation indistinct]. President Ortega, I would like you to explain the criteria on which you based your decision to choose the political parties that you will meet with this afternoon [words indistinct] in Spain, and whether there is a specific reason for rejecting a formal request presented by a parliamentary party to meet with you this morning. This party is also recognized by the Christian Democratic International.

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] Can you please repeat the question?

[Reporter] I would like you to explain the criteria you used to choose the Spanish opposition parties that it appears you will meet with this afternoon.

[Ortega interrupts] Excuse me, did you say the Spanish opposition parties that I will meet with this afternoon?

[Reporter] Yes, what are the criteria.

[Ortega interrupts] What are the criteria?

[Reporter] Yes, what are the criteria you used to [words indistinct] it seems you will meet with all the representatives of the parliamentary parties, and whether there is a specific reason for your rejecting a request by the Christian Democratic International to meet with you this morning?

[Ortega] That is a problem of the ambassador. [Passage indistinct] Now then, if there are other parties which wish to talk, we are willing to do so.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of [affiliation indistinct]. I have a question for Commander Ortega. As for your meeting with Pope John Paul II in Rome, will you ask the pope to urgently intercede with the Reagan administration to try to prevent new funds from being allocated for the Nicaraguan contras?

[Ortega] (?I will) speak with the pope about the Central American issue, about the peace efforts, and about the threats to the peace process. I will express thanks for Cardinal Obando y Bravo's participation in the peace efforts [words indistinct] contribution of the pope [words indistinct] participation of Cardinal Obando y Bravo in the mediation for a cease-fire, and in the national reconciliation commission (?that) contribute to peace. In that meeting, (?we will try) to obtain confirmation of the Catholic Church's contribution to peace in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of [affiliation indistinct]. I have a question for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Does Spain foresee the possibility of receiving Nicaraguan political refugees? Has Nicaragua made such a request? I would also like to ask President Ortega is he plans to (?offer) the pope the resignations of the ministers who are priests?

[Gonzalez] The request has not been brought up in the meeting, so there is no [words indistinct].

[Ortega] As for the priests who are in the Nicaraguan Government, this is not a topic in the talks with the pope. We are going to discuss the topic of Central American (?peace). I understand that this type of problem concerning members of the Catholic Church, with priests, is [words indistinct]. The Vatican has its own mechanisms for discussing those problems.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] My name is [name indistinct], from INTERPRESS. This is a question for the Spanish prime minister. Mr Gonzalez, you have mentioned the Contadora and Support Groups at least three times today. However, at the 15 and 16 January meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, those two groups were removed from the verification commission. A few days ago, Minister Caputo said it is likely that the Support Group will also not participate in the NATO meeting in Hamburg. From your statements, I understood you to be in favor of a reactivation of the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups.

[Gonzalez] From the very start, I have supported the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups concerning the mechanisms for attaining peace in the region. I supported those efforts, but, of course, the Central American presidents have to decide whether contact between Europe and the Contadora and Support Groups or the Group of Eight will be maintained both at the meeting of Central American presidents and at the meeting on problems...[10-second station identification break] have serviced the region for a long time as a result of their influence, and they have also contributed to building a peaceful alternative for Central America. I insist that a regional response to regional problems is the best possible mechanism for reaching solutions. Obviously, this does not prevent me from fully respecting—this could not be any different—the sovereign decision of each and every Central American country. In my opinion, it is very good to have Latin American solidarity in the search for peaceful solutions, development, and democracy in a specific region on that continent.

[Ortega] I would like to add the following: I can vigorously state that at the 15 and 16 January meeting in Costa Rica, the Central American presidents were not unanimous in wanting to do without the services of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS].

Some Central American governments—in other words, not only Nicaragua, but other Central American governments as well—are in favor of the CIVS. For that reason, we left the door open for the formation of another mechanism, which could be comprised of regional members such as the Contadora and Support Groups, international organizations like the OAS and the United Nations, and extraregional countries.

[Gonzalez] It would be rather absurd to have extraregional members and not regional members on such a commission. Thank you very much.

Addresses Solidarity Rally

PA280402 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega in front of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Madrid on 27 January—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, dear brothers of Madrid and brother companeros. I can offer, in exchange for so much solidarity and so much affection, only the affection, the fighting spirit, heroism, sweat, and blood of the Nicaraguan workers and peasants. [applause] I can offer you the

willingness of the Nicaraguan youths, of the Nicaraguan women, and of all the heroic peoples of Sandino to sacrifice and to never surrender .

Peace will be secured by our victory. And, peace will be secured because it is defended by an entire people that are ready to shed their blood. Peace will be attained because the Nicaraguan people have been winning this battle amid great difficulties combined with destruction and death. But the people stand firm and are struggling for peace. And we are struggling for peace, because we are struggling for liberty, for justice, and for democracy in Nicaragua.

We have begun a process of negotiations. I hope to speak a little to you on this, although I know it is not the best thing under this rain [crowd shouts] and although you are not going to let the rain get the best of you. [crowd chants: "They shall not pass"]

We have been forever struggling for independence, liberty, justice, and democracy. That is why we waged the revolution, that is why the people triumphed on 19 July 1979, and that is why the Nicaraguan people continue to struggle so as not to lose that 19 July 1979 victory. And when we worked for peace for many years with the Latin American Contadora and Support Groups, we did so with the firm determination to reach agreements that, without sacrificing the Nicaraguan revolution, democracy, and the 19 July achievements, would end the war and permit us to build our democracies in peace.

On 7 August 1987, as a result of that Latin American effort, we Central American presidents signed a peace agreement in Guatemala. But one has to be clear about this. That peace agreement was possible because the Nicaraguan people, the Nicaraguan youths, the Nicaraguan peasants, and the Nicaraguan workers knew and know how to firmly defend their revolution. That is why the peace agreement was possible, because this Latin American Contadora Group, which was later joined by the Support Group, worked in a dedicated manner. It reflected the highest Latin American ideals and those of Bolivar, Marti, Che, and Sandino. [crowd chants: "Nicaragua will win"]

We signed an agreement on 7 August, and we ratified it on 16 January in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The measures and steps Nicaragua has taken should not and cannot be interpreted as concessions. The Nicaraguan revolution has never said it would permanently maintain a state of emergency. The state of emergency was imposed due to the war that the United States promotes against Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan revolution and the FSLN have never proposed a revolutionary process without political pluralism. We have carried out a revolution to defend political pluralism and to demonstrate that the workers and peasants know how to identify and defend their interests in the framework of political pluralism. We also did this to demonstrate that the workers and peasants know how to fight, both militarily and politically, against those who want to prevent revolutionary changes in our fatherland.

Nicaragua made no concession by signing the Esquipulas agreement. The country knows that without these accords, peace had no choice and Nicaragua had no reason for taking the steps it has taken. In the face of U.S. policy, this is very clear: The Nicaraguan people have responded firmly, without hesitation, and without concessions to the U.S. Government's measures of force and repression.

The people cannot retreat in the face of pressure. In the face of a policy of force, the people take to their trenches, defend themselves, and struggle, thus proving true the slogan of free fatherland or death. [crowd shouts: "Nicaragua will win!"]

We signed that agreement on 7 August 1987, and we ratified it on 16 January. We Sandinists live by our word, and because of this we are complying with the accords. But we expect the other Central American presidents to comply as well.

Nicaragua has not been negotiating, in the framework of this peace process, the democracy attained on 19 July 1979. Nicaragua has not been negotiating to return to the rich landowners the land that has been given to the peasants. That land will always be in the hands of the peasants. [applause] Nicaragua has not been negotiating to return to the Somozists the assets that were confiscated from them. Those assets will remain in the people's hands forever. Nicaragua has not engaged in any negotiations on its independence, its right to self-determination, or its sovereignty. All this went to the hands of the Nicaraguan people on 19 July 1979, and it will rest there forever.

Nicaragua is making a great effort for peace in Central America. Nicaragua, in these circumstances, hopes that the United States will stop acting illegally and that it will obey the ICJ [International Court of Justice] ruling. Nicaragua and the Central American presidents, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the international community hope that the U.S. leaders and Congress will vote on how to solve their domestic problems and on how to better treat the blacks and Latin Americans who are discriminated against and who go hungry and die in the United States during the winter. Let them take care of what is their business and stop trying to give us Nicaraguans lessons on democracy. [applause]

The U.S. Government recently signed with the Soviet Union agreements on removing short- and medium-range missiles from Europe. However, it insists on sowing death and destruction in Nicaragua.

There is a contradiction here. The United States has no consistent policy here. The important thing is to defend the peoples' right to self-determination, to their independence. The important thing is to defend international law. We are not going to allow the law of the jungle to be imposed. We will not allow the law of the jungle to be imposed. [repeats himself] [crowd shouts: "No"; applause]

The United States and Nicaragua have been waging a battle. They accuse us of threatening U.S. security. They claim that 3 million Nicaraguans on 130,000 square km threaten U.S. security. [applause, shouts] By saying this they are seeking to justify their unlawful policy against our homeland.

We have said they are acting illegally; that they are acting outside the law and are therefore acting like criminals. [applause, shouts] [words indistinct]

Some people in the U.S. Congress, in American society, and in the American media, which indeed have great respect for the law, may have been confused. We went to the ICJ, which the United States has (?walked out) from on more than seven occasions. We went to the court, and the ICJ gave its verdict. Its verdict was: guilty. The United States is guilty of aggression against Nicaragua. [applause, shouts] This was the ruling of the ICJ. [applause]

This is no longer an assertion by Nicaragua. This is no longer a question of what Nicaragua says. This is no longer a question of an interpretation that Nicaragua may be making. This is an interpretation of international laws by the ICJ. However, the United States refuses to abide by the ruling of the court. It refuses to heed the appeals of the United Nations, the appeals of the Nonaligned Movement, UN resolutions, or resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement.

That is why the developing countries, the so-called Third World countries; the impoverished countries; the Latin American, Caribbean, Africa, and Asian countries; and even the developed countries that do not have the might of the superpowers are obliged to struggle to support international law, [to struggle] to enforce respect for international law, to enforce respect for international law. [repeats himself] This is the only way to protect the security of our peoples. [applause]

We have begun this tour in Spain, and we will continue on to Italy, Norway, and Sweden. This is a tour for peace and democracy. We decided to make this visit after the 16 January meeting because we feel it is important to bolster European action for the peace and democracy that we, the Central American presidents, have pledged to achieve without exception.

Therefore, this is the right time to strengthen these forums. It is tantamount to working for peace in Central America; working to prevent the United States—which is bent on destroying this peace process—from doing so; and working so that the willpower of the Central American peoples and the self-respect of the leaders of Central American governments will succeed in resisting the pressures, threats, and blackmail of U.S. Government leaders. [applause]

We are waging a battle that not only concerns Nicaragua, but also the Spanish people and the peoples of the world. [shouts, applause] We must struggle to keep the Esquipulas agreement from dying. We have to struggle in order for peace to progress in Central America.

We must struggle so that peace can make continued progress in Central America. We must struggle so we can be strengthened by a European front, a Latin American front, and a front including all the world's peoples against intervention and for peace in Central America. [applause]

We have taken these steps aware that an agreement exists every second, every minute, and every day in our fatherland. We have taken these steps while aware that other Central American countries are not yet fulfilling the accords we signed on 7 August. [applause] We have been taking these steps. We will continue defending these agreements, even when on Sunday [24 January] a CIA mercenary airplane coming from Honduran territory was shot down by the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

We signed those agreements in the middle of a river of blood, of sacrifice, and of the martyrdom of the Nicaraguan mothers, youths, and children who were murdered by the mercenaries of the U.S. Government. [chants, applause]

On this occasion, we must not fail to remember a Spanish brother, the priest Gaspar Laviana, who shed his blood for Nicaragua's freedom during the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. [applause] Just as Ambrosio [name indistinct], this Spaniard whom we consider a Nicaraguan and a Latin American shed his blood and gave his life in Nicaragua while delivering medical care to Nicaraguan peasants. The war we are fighting in Nicaragua is full of heroic acts, to which we add the willingness and spirit of the Latin American and Caribbean people, of Canadians, of U.S. citizens, of Europeans, and of all the world's peoples. [applause]

I emphasize the struggle of the American people, and I emphasize heroic examples such as Brian Willson, the U.S. citizen who was maimed when a train loaded with weapons for Central America ran over him. [applause] There is another American who died in our fatherland at the hands of the mercenaries: Ben Linder, who was killed while working with the peasants in the deep jungle. [applause] I could continue naming citizens from Europe—from Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Germany—who have united their blood with the blood of the Nicaraguan heroes and martyrs [applause] and who have made our struggle a single struggle.

I want to thank you, brothers of Madrid who have come here, brothers, companeros, and comrades. [chants, applause] Sandino used to say brothers, brothers [word indistinct]. Sandino felt that it was more intimate and that it united us more—companeros and comrades equally. [applause, shouts]

The Nicaraguan people are grateful for Spain's solidarity. They are grateful for this solidarity, which gives us strength to continue the struggle for the peace, democracy, freedom, justice, independence, and self-determination that we conquered on 19 July 1979.

At this moment, Nicaragua needs the solidarity, the unity...[changes thought] and just as a Latin American front has been formed and a position has been reached—despite ideological differences—an agreement exists between the Latin American peoples and revolutionary political forces and the governments of the Contadora and Support Groups. We believe it is necessary to reach such an agreement in Europe if we really wish to support the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. [applause, shouts of "Solidarity with Nicaragua!"]

Solidarity: That is what Nicaragua is demanding; solidarity above and beyond any political or ideological differences. If we could attract the Popular Alliance [Spanish right-wing group] to this solidarity, if we could create the miracle of attracting the Popular Alliance [laughter], such solidarity would also be [word indistinct]. [applause and shouts]

I think it would really be extraordinary if the Popular Alliance would come up with a clear position against intervention in Nicaragua, in favor of the struggle of the Nicaraguan people, in defense of international law, and in defense of people's rights. I think that would be a real miracle. [laughter and applause] And most likely the Popular Alliance would stop calling itself a Popular Alliance. [applause] It would purify itself in body and soul [laughter] and everyone has a right to experience a conversion. Everyone has a right to be purified in body and soul. Why deny the Popular Alliance that right? [laughter and applause] They have the opportunity to show they favor the peoples' independence, that they are in favor of the Iberoamerican solidarity that Nicaragua demands, and that they are faithful to the blood ties that unite Spain with Nicaragua. Or are they going to be [words indistinct]? [shouts] It is not our turn to speak; it is the Popular Alliance's turn to declare whether it is in favor of Latin American brotherhood, peace, and democracy, or whether it opposes that Latin American brotherhood, peace, and democracy [word indistinct]. [shouts and slogans]

I am responsible for representing a people whose blood is being shed daily. I am responsible for representing a people whose children are being mutilated because they are defending the right to self-determination and independence. With the weight of this responsibility, I want to tell you that just as we are receiving the solidarity of various revolutionary political sectors here in Spain, we are also receiving the solidarity of the Spanish Government; and this must be stated. This must be stated. [repeats himself] We have to set interests aside. We have come here to wage a battle [words indistinct]. We have enough problems there. I have come for solidarity. When I tell you that Felipe Gonzalez and the government are extending solidarity to Nicaragua, I am not lying—I am stating a fact. All Spaniards can give this solidarity to the Nicaraguan people, setting aside antagonisms and political and ideological beliefs.

Solidarity: This is what we want, and what we expect of you. We are not known for being very diplomatic. We speak clearly. What we are demanding is solidarity, unconditional solidarity; and this is the kind of solidarity we have been receiving from Spain. [crowd shouts: "Solidarity with Nicaragua!"]

We are obligated until the final moment. However, that small country, Nicaragua, which is plagued with tears and mortal wounds, is also full of men and women who are determined to defend the achievements won on 19 July. That Nicaragua, Spanish brothers, brothers of Madrid, will continue this struggle for peace, firmly defending its territorial integrity, confronting the mercenary forces, shooting down the CIA planes [applause], and also remaining determined to confront the U.S. forces if they enter our territory. [crowd shouts rhythmic slogans]

That Nicaragua of heroic mothers will not surrender, because the people will never surrender. That word is not in the people's vocabulary. It will never be in the Spanish people's vocabulary. It will never be in the Nicaraguan people's vocabulary. The people never surrender. The people struggle to triumph or die. The people struggle with our Sandino's slogan that is a reality in Nicaragua: Free fatherland or death. Long live the people of Madrid. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the people of Spain. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Ibero-American brotherhood. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Together, Spain and Nicaragua will triumph in the struggle for peace and democracy.

Thank you. [applause, rhythmic shouting of "Nicaragua, Nicaragua!"]

Tinoco: More Contra Aid 'Disaster' for Peace

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[Text] San Jose, 27 Jan (AFP)—Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco today stated in San Jose that the U.S. Congress' approval of new economic and military aid for the contras "would mean disaster" for the Central American peace plan.

"It would be a disaster, and the peace plan would be destroyed," Tinoco noted during a news conference at the Nicaraguan Embassy in this capital. He added that if this happened, "the Nicaraguan Government would have to take defensive measures."

Tinoco did not state whether these measures would include reinstating the state of emergency, which was revoked only 10 days ago following a 7-year suspension of civil rights and the freedom of the press.

"The approval of new funds for the contras, no matter what the amount is, would open the door to war, but we are hoping that prudence will prevail in the Congress," the Sandinist official said.

Tinoco arrived in San Jose today at the head of the Nicaraguan Government delegation that will begin direct negotiations with the contras tomorrow, to try to agree on a cease-fire.

In referring to a possible trip to Central America by Secretary of State George Shultz if Congress approves the aid, Tinoco noted that Shultz would be coming "to see the smoking ashes of the peace plan."

As for the meeting on Thursday with a delegation of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), Tinoco insisted that no political matters, but only issues related to the cease-fire, would be discussed during the talks.

However, he explained that the final objective is not just to achieve a cease-fire, "but for the contras to then disarm, accept the amnesty, and become reincorporated into civilian life. This would permit them to participate in the political dialogue that the government is holding with the internal opposition parties."

The RN leadership has so far rejected this policy. The RN has instead stated that the cease-fire can be achieved only when "there is real democratization" in the country.

In addition to Tinoco, the Sandinist delegation to the cease-fire talks includes Major Ricardo Wheelock, EPS chief of intelligence; Hans Juergen Wischnewski, German Social Democratic deputy; and Paul Riechler, U.S. academician. The latter two individuals are attending as advisers.

The contra side is led by "Commander Tono" and includes Ricardo Morales Carazo [name as received], a politician; Gonzalo Facio, former Costa Rican foreign minister; and Ramon Jimenez, former Dominican foreign minister. The latter two individuals are attending as advisers.

Bishops Carlos Sancti and Bosco Vivas of Nicaragua, the representatives of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, will be the mediators.

Paper Views Reagan Request for Contra Aid

PA280059 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Jan 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The Countdown"]

[Text] It would be premature to call President Reagan's decision to file away his $270 million request to Congress [for aid to the contras] as a defeat. Yesterday it was confirmed that the request has been whittled down to $36 million. However, it cannot be denied that this demonstrates a weakening of the administration since it has been forced to embark on a strategy to gain time and win the support of 30 or 40 undecided congressmen who will influence the voting on 3 and 4 February

The ruse of apparently being flexible by using the excuse that the funds would be for "humanitarian" purposes (that is, for logistics) and only if a cease-fire agreement between Nicaragua and the contras is not certified in March—with 10 percent of the aid, for arms, to be held in escrow—seems more like a poisoned lure to make some frightened Democrats fall into the trap of total war.

This is not a new trick, but it has worked in the past. In essence, Reagan is trying to have Congress commit to continuing military assistance to the mercenaries, slower than he would like, but enough to keep the contras afloat. The war funds approved in previous months will conclude at the end of February, so Washington's only goal right now is to get through March and the next 4 months with this new aid package. Most of all, it wants to continue the war while reserving the right to be judge and jury for Esquipulas. Reagan wants to certify the failure of a cease-fire that his government is doing all it can to prevent. Reagan reserves for himself the right to decide when to finish off the Central American peace plan once and for all, or in other words, how to increase the war to unimaginable levels just a few months before his term ends. If the package is approved, this will just be a matter of time.

But will the U.S. Congress fall for this maneuver to perpetuate war? We will see in the next few days.

Meanwhile, we remain in a state of alert. The amount of war funds requested is not the real danger to our country. What really matters is whether or not the military aggression and the determination to destroy us within the next few years will continue. We will know where we stand on 4 February.

Decree Empowers Supreme Court To Create Courts

PA262330 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Decree No 299: "Powers Granted to the Supreme Court To Create Courts"]

[Text] With the powers vested in him, the president of the Republic of Nicaragua decrees:

Article 1: The Supreme Court is hereby empowered to create, eliminate, or merge district and local courts.

Article 2: To be a district judge, a person must be a graduate from any of the country's laws schools or a well-known legal expert. To be a local judge, a person must be a citizen with full rights, a law student, or a legal expert.

Article 3: The agreements that the Supreme Court reaches on these matters will be published in the gazette or the official newspaper.

Article 4: This decree will become effective when it is published in the media, notwithstanding its subsequent publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

For a dignified peace, free fatherland or death!

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic

Panama

Delvalle: U.S. Pressure 'Totally Unfair'

PA262205 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle termed U.S. pressure on Panama as totally unfair. He stated that our country has remained firm in not kneeling or capitulating, and that the ultrarightist policy of the U.S. State Department must, of course, change with the election of the new U.S. president.

Delvalle said there has been no dramatic official change in current diplomatic relations with the United States, but he believes the reopening of the media that were closed last July, the political amnesty, and the return of opposition members have led the United States to somewhat understand the difficulties the government has faced.

On another topic, Delvalle noted that he is not familiar with the so-called Blandon plan, that he [Blandon] has not requested asylum, and that Blandon will continue to perform his consular duties, pending an audit. After responding to another question, Delvalle commented that there is no friction with the National Democratic Union. He added that only reassignments and not the dismissal of public workers are contemplated.

Paper on Blandon Receiving U.S. 'Protection'

PA232344 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Jan 88 pp 1, 30

[Article by Blas Julio]

[Text] In view of the imminent danger to his family and to his own life, the U.S. Government has decided to offer official protection to Eng Jose I. Blandon, who, until a few days ago, was Panama's consul general in New York.

Blandon was dismissed at the start of the year when it became public knowledge in Panama that the former intelligence (G-2) adviser and right-hand man of General Manuel Antonio Noriega was handling the details of a plan that would free Noriega from any prosecution for his crimes of homicide, drug trafficking, and drug-related money laundering. The PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and the military hierarchy apparently were unaware that the "plan" did not benefit them. Blandon, former director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] and one of the most eminent Torrijist theorists, plans to testify at a U.S. federal court about everything he knows concerning the intimate and confidential affairs of high-ranking Panamanian political figures. His testimony could include Panama's money-laundering operations that are run by the drug-trafficking mafias. These mafias take advantage of the international financial center and its laws, which until very recently were relatively flexible concerning the identity of depositors. His testimony could also include: the illegal wealth of high-ranking officials in the civilian and military sectors; the as yet unresolved political homicides; and the electoral fraud that elevated Nicky Barletta, Tuturo Delvalle, and Roderick Esquivel to the Presidency. It is highly probable that Blandon will include many details on Operation Piscis, in which the Panamanian Government sought to soften Washington's stand concerning evidence of the protection offered in Panama to Colombian and Peruvian drug traffickers. It is also highly likely that he may refer to the private world of a few Defense Forces officers within the governing PRD.

Jose Isabel Blandon, former Panamanian consul in New York City, yesterday received official protection from the U.S. Government, an EFE news agency dispatch reported from Washington.

According to the report, Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato requested that Attorney General Edwin Meese grant Blandon and his family immediate protection. Meese later reported that this protection had been approved and that the Panamanian should relax.

D'Amato asked the attorney general of the world's leading power for this protection since Blandon was in danger due to his knowledge of drug trafficking, arms trading, and many other activities. EFE received this information because it had access to the congressional letter in question.

Jose Isabel Blandon, who for 16 years held the position of Defense Forces adviser for the intelligence corps and was one of the men closest to Gen Noriega, was named consul general in New York after holding the position of director of IRHE. In that latter capacity, his official conduct was criticized by various independent communications media and by the Panamanian people.

The EFE dispatch adds that "the former consul, who was summarily dismissed on Thursday, under instructions from Gen Noriega prepared a plan for the general's withdrawal no later than the 1st week of April."

The international dispatch continues: "During the preparation of this plan, Blandon met with U.S. officials and explored the possibility of the United States guaranteeing that Noriega would not be prosecuted in connection with accusations of drug trafficking and money laundering. [no end quotation marks as published] The newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST carried reports on the issue for a week.

EL SIGLO is searching for Blandon's relatives in Panama. After learning of the EFE report, EL SIGLO reporters tried in vain to locate several relatives of Jose Isabel Blandon in Panama City. Within the next few hours, our team of reporters will continue our mission of eliciting opinions from persons who are close to this family and who can contact them.

The report, which was broadcast by television in Panama, had such an impact that there were strong rumors concerning the problems that the Blandon family had to face, as well as about the family's U.S. Government protection. In different political circles it is expected that the Panamanian Government will offer an objective report on this last-minute information, which EFE has distributed to various parts of the world.

Argentina

Caputo Welcomes Cuban Foreign Minister

PY280049 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0020 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (TELAM)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived tonight just after 2100. Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo welcomed Malmierca at Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport.

Malmierca, who is paying a 2-day official visit, said the Argentine position at the United Nations with regard to a possible U.S. request for an investigation of alleged human rights violations in Cuba is an issue that could be discussed in the meetings with Caputo.

Malmierca said the U.S. position of accusing Cuba of alleged human rights violations has no basis.

Nicaragua's Cardenal Meets Alfonsin, Caputo

PY280138 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2314 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (TELAM) —President Raul Alfonsin today received Nicaraguan Education Minister Fernando Cardenal at the Olivos residence. Cardenal asked Alfonsin to visit Nicaragua as a member of the Contadora Support Group to verify his country's observance of the Esquipulas peace treaty.

Cardenal had a 35-minute meeting this afternoon with Alfonsin at Olivos. At the end of the meeting he told journalists he had handed a personal letter from President Ortega to the Argentine president.

Cardenal said that in the letter Ortega offers an official invitation to Alfonsin to visit Nicaragua.

Cardenal added that he had conveyed to Alfonsin the great concern of his government over President Reagan's request to the U.S. Congress for more funds for the counterrevolution.

Cardenal said President Ortega believes the appropriation of any funds by the U.S. Congress for the irregulars would be a mortal blow to the Esquipulas peace process.

In answer to a question, Cardenal said that Alfonsin had given his enthusiastic support to all Nicaraguan proposals.

Cardenal added that Nicaragua has already fulfilled the demand made in Costa Rica and in Esquipulas to lift the state of emergency, and is very close to a law granting amnesty, as required in the peace agreement.

Finally Cardenal said that a personal letter from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto will be handed to his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo.

Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Nicaraguan Ambassador to Argentina Fernando Guzman Cuadras participated in the meeting along with Alfonsin and Cardenal.

Proceedings, Actions in Rico Case Continue

Paraguayan Envoy on Colonels

PY271401 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1240 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (TELAM) — Paraguayan Ambassador to Argentina Miguel Angel Bestard this morning categorically denied that fugitive Lieutenant Colonels Angel Leon and Arturo Gonzalez have sought refuge in his embassy, and he maintained that if they did happen to seek refuge, the Argentine Foreign Ministry would be the first to be informed.

When entering the embassy, located at 2545 Las Heras Avenue in this capital, at 0900 this morning, Bestard said he did not know the origin of the press reports that Leon and Gonzalez were probably inside the embassy. Bestard called the reports false.

Bestard also said that members of the Federal Police had consulted the embassy on the matter, and embassy personnel had denied the possibility.

He said the only request for asylum we have received is that of Oscar Castrogiovanni, who is currently in Asuncion, and he added that it is his duty as a diplomat to inform the Argentine Foreign Ministry if an incident of this type occurs.

Bestard said that if some individual is being pursued for political reasons, he will be given asylum, but he specified that if some common crime is involved, asylum cannot be granted. He added that it is the country granting asylum that decides whether asylum is to be of a political nature. Therefore, he said he very much doubts the Paraguayan Embassy will receive any more requests of this type.

Leon Surrenders at 5th Brigade

PY271302 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1228 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 27 Jan (NA) —Lieutenant Colonel Angel Daniel Leon, one of the fugitives involved in last week's military incidents, presented himself at the headquarters of the 5th Brigade, based in this city, at 0430 this morning.

Leon was one of two rebel chiefs still at large. He has been placed at the disposal of this province's military court.

Officer Discharged From Army

PY272323 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2147 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (NA)—According to an official report, 1st Lieutenant Alejandro Maguire, from the Judge Advocate's Office, was discharged from the Army today.

At the end of last year, Maguire threatened three NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS journalists with a pistol. The incident occurred while they were driving former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico from the Lemos School to Los Fresnos country house.

Army Staff Issues Communique

PY272357 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2234 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (TELAM) —At 1915 today the Army General Staff released the following communique:

The Army General Staff reports:

1. Today, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Leon gave himself up at the command of the 5th Infantry Brigade in Tucuman. He is under custody in a military unit while the military judge prepares the case against him. Tomorrow Leon will be moved to Magdalena Military Prison.

2. The following appointments have been made to ensure the normalization of activities in the different units:

Chief of the 121st Amphibious Engineer Battalion (Santo Tome, Santa Fe): Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Cacivio.

Chief of the Exploration Detachment of the 121st Armored Cavalry (Gualeguaychu, Entre Rios): Lieutenant Colonel Federico Toranzo.

Chief of the 4th Infantry Regiment (Monte Caseros, Corrientes): Major Alberto Diaz.

Chief of the 12th Infantry Regiment (Mercedes, Corrientes): Major Ricardo Villalba.

Chief of the 18th Infantry Regiment (San Javier, Misiones): Lieutenant Colonel Mario Castagneto.

Chief of the 35th Mechanized Infantry Regiment (Rospentek, Santa Cruz): Lieutenant Colonel Omar Martinez.

Chief of the 2d Armored Communications Squadron (Parana, Entre Rios): Major Alberto Casaux.

3. The military judges continue with the legal proceedings with the utmost swiftness.

Gonzalez Appointed Head of Military Household

PY251542 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1409 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan (TELAM) —It has been officially reported at Government House that Rear Admiral Alberto Cesar Gonzalez has been appointed chief of the military household of the Presidency. Rear Adm Gonzalez is replacing Brigadier Hector Panzardi.

The new chief of the military household will assume his duties on 28 January. The decree of his appointment bears No 80, and it is signed by President Raul Alfonsin and Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena.

CGT Renews Call for Debt Payment Moratorium

PY230149 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The General Confederation of Labor [CGT] today rejected IMF pressure for new adjustments in the Argentine economy. In an official communique signed by Saul Ubaldini, the CGT reaffirmed its proposal for a moratorium on the payment of debt services, in order to increase national resources and reactivate the economy.

In the same communique, the CGT approved recent remarks by Public Works and Services Minister Rodolfo Terragno, who issued a communique yesterday stating that the foreign debt is unpayable under current circumstances.

Bolivia

Bedregal Cited on Brazilian President's Visit

PY271957 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1551 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 27 Jan (EFE) —According to Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal, President Victor Paz Estenssoro and President Jose Sarney will meet in La Paz at the end of April.

Bedregal said that various agreements for bilateral development will be signed at the presidential meeting, the most important being the agreement to sell Bolivian gas to Brazil.

Bedregal stressed the importance of the meeting, saying that it will confirm the political will of the two governments to build a gas pipeline linking Santa Cruz in Bolivia with the Mato Grosso region in Brazil under IDB and World Bank financing.

Bedregal added that the foreign ministers of the two countries will hold a preparatory meeting at the beginning of April to prepare for the summit.

Bedregal said that during 1988 President Paz Estenssoro will also meet with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Argentina To Disburse $20 Million For Gas

PY261359 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The Argentine Government has promised to disburse $20 million to cover purchases of natural gas from Bolivia. This was disclosed by Foreign Relations Under Secretary Jorge Valdes, who said that as a result of negotiations by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry, the Argentine Government has promised to disburse the money in two payments to be made this week.

As a consequence, the Argentine Government organizations will deposit $5 million in the next few hours and the remaining $15 million before the end of the week.

Valdes said this payment will give the Bolivian treasury a better chance of honoring its commitments, taking into account that the sale of natural gas represents the most important source of funds for our country.

Private Banks Decide To Reduce Interest Rates

PY201151 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Jan 88 p 1

[Excerpts] The Bolivian Association of Private Banks (ASOBAN) unanimously decided during its last meeting of 1987 to reduce interest rates beginning 1 January 1988 on credits for productive activities in the country.

ASOBAN released a document analyzing the national economic situation and explaining some aspects that harmed banking activities in 1987.

"The banks believe the economic reactivation will be possible only when problems resulting from high interest rates, penalty fees, and the 'cancer' of smuggling, are eradicated," the ASOBAN document states. [passage omitted]

The banking system, which in August 1985 had only $30 million, was able to attract $200 million with encouraging interest rates. In practice, this money helped in the recovery from the crisis of recent years. Approximately 80 percent of this money was channeled into productive activities in the private sector.

The ASOABAN document also states: "Aware of the need to share a sacrifice among all Bolivians, ASOBAN unanimously decided during its last assembly of 1987 to considerably reduce the interest rates beginning 1 January 1988 on credits to productive activities in the country."

Response to Coca Eradication Plan Reported

Growers Support Plan

PY221500 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The government believes the coca growers will continue with the plan to reduce coca cultivation because the government will show them that it is fulfilling the agreement reached with the growers.

Anibal Aguilar, under secretary for new development plans, said the work being conducted by the coca producers [words indistinct] shows that they have confidence in the government.

Recently the coca producers decided to halt the reduction of coca growing because they claimed the government was not fulfilling agreements reached on 6 June 1987. Aguilar told the coca producers that the government is making a great effort to fulfill the agreements.

Campesino Affairs Minister Guillermo Justiniano said, with regard to this issue, that the government plans to expand the coca replacement program with contributions from other countries and international organizations. It has been reported that next weekend there will be a demonstration in Chapare relating to the work being done to benefit the coca growing regions.

COB on Suspension of Plan

PY231429 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] issued a communique disclosing that it has ordered the cessation of the coca eradication program until the government proves that it is carrying out a sustained socioeconomic development process.

The communique was in response to a statement by Information Minister German Antelo, who said there is no evidence that rumors stating the voluntary coca eradication program has been suspended are true.

The COB document ends by stating that it suspended the program on 12 January.

Official Cited on Drug Traffickers' Activities

PY251422 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] In Bolivia, where criminal activity is controlled, and where order and stability prevail, drug traffickers are beginning to create chaos and instability to distract government attention from their activities. This was stated by Interior Under Secretary Fernando Perez Beltran, who told Panamericana that drug traffickers are trying to distract the national security forces to gain more freedom for illegal activities.

[Begin Perez Beltran recording] Unfortunately, some immature politicians support the objectives of the drug traffickers, who wish to expand their activities.

Therefore, some political sectors are helping the drug traffickers. [end recording]

The interior under secretary also said some drug traffickers are infiltrating the coca farmers to urge them to oppose government eradication program. Such cases were discovered by police last year.

Referring to accusations by leftist congressmen who said the government supposedly protects drug traffickers, Perez Beltran said whoever makes such charges should reveal names and show evidence.

Cocaine Factories in Santa Ana Destroyed

PY251536 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 24 Jan (AFP) —The Antidrug Bureau [Oficina de Lucha Contra el Narcotrafico] today announced in La Paz that the discovery and destruction of giant concaine-processing factories in Santa Ana in northern Bolivia also facilitated the identification of the Nacif and Rodriguez international drug trafficking networks.

The official report states that the factories processed 7 tons of cocaine per week for Colombian and Mexican buyers, and possessed modern equipment and sophisticated techniques to crystallize cocaine.

The report adds that the U.S. DEA had been conducting intelligence operations to discover the lines of supply, and that a hard blow was dealt to the international Mafia with the destruction of these cocaine-processing centers.

In conclusion, the report states that despite the economic difficulties involved in conducting the operations, an effective system has been established to conduct land and airborne operations to control the processing and trafficking of cocaine.

Brazil

Poll Shows Sao Paulo Wants Immediate Elections

PY251809 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The people of Sao Paulo want immediate elections for city council members, deputies, senators, and president of the Republic.

A poll conducted by the O ESTADO Research Department on 20-21 January shows that 83 percent of the 400 voters interviewed want immediate direct elections. Only 14 percent of the people interviewed oppose elections in 1988.

Some 79 percent of the 400 people interviewed want general elections, and 43 percent favor a presidential system.

Asked about the ideal type of government, 36 percent of the people opted for a parliamentary system.

Some 45 percent of the voters did not have a preferred presidential candidate, 10 percent would vote for Paulo Maluf, 9 percent for Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, and 9 percent for Orestes Quercia.

Most of the people—73 percent—considered Sao Paulo Mayor Janio Quadros the most ineffective politician.

Ministers View Salary Policy, Deny Dismissals

PY271333 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 27 Jan 88

[By Cristina Indio do Brasil]]

[Excerpt] All ministers met last night to analyze the government salary policy. They stated that there will be no dismissals of state employees.

The ministers met last night in preparation for the meeting of the State-Owned Enterprises Interministerial Salary Council, to be held on 3 February.

According to Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega, important aspects of the government salary policies were discussed. The goal of the discussions was to create mechanisms to allow the state-owned enterprises to comply with the salary laws. Minister Nobrega also said salaries must be prevented from going up 22 percent in real terms, as they did in 1987. The minister denied, however, having discussed dismissal of state employees.

[Begin Nobrega recording] No, we discussed ways of acting uniformly in all state-owned enterprises. We did not discuss dismissals or modifications to the salary policy. We discussed how to strictly comply with the law. [end recording]

Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto said he hopes the executive and judicial branches can work together on salary readjustments. [passage omitted]

Congress To Discuss New Drug Control Law

PY191418 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Paulo Brossard said yesterday that the 12-year-old law regulating use of drugs will be updated and assessed by the National Congress. At the end of a meeting with Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma and the president of the Drug Control Federal Council, Brossard said he wanted to strengthen and invigorate the fight against drugs.

Brossard announced that in March the Federal Police will receive an additional 250 vehicles. [passage omitted]

Army Praises Court Sentence of Officer

PY220020 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Today's issue of the Army official bulletin clarified the one-man rebellion in Apucarana on 22 October 1987, when Army Captain Luis Fernando Valter de Almeida occupied the Apucarana town hall to protest low Army salaries. The bulletin denied rumors that Capt Almeida's rebellion caused the government to grant salary increases to the Army.

The bulletin also praised the court decision to sentence Capt Almeida to 3 years' imprisonment and dismissal from the Army.

Chile

HOY Director Indicted by Military Court

PY261957 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The director of the magazine HOY, Abraham Santibanez, together with four other journalists of the magazine, including Alejandro Guille, have been indicted by the First Military Court on charges of alleged offenses against the Armed Forces.

The judge has notified Andres Donoso, lawyer of Santibanez, of the decision following inquiries into commentaries and information that was disseminated by HOY in February last year involving declarations of Major Armando Fernandez Larios.

The court is basing the indictments on violation of Article 284 of the Military Justice Code dealing with offenses against the Armed Forces, a crime punishable by 541 days to 10 years imprisonment.

A court martial must confirm the decision to release those indicted in cases like these. Attorney Donoso said Santibanez will place himself at the disposal of the court during the next few hours.

CNT Leaders Sentenced Under Security Law

PY261833 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Judge Arnoldo Dreyse has sentenced both the president of the self-styled National Workers Command [CNT] organization, Manuel Bustos, and the vice president of this de facto organization, Arturo Martinez, to 541-day prison terms.

The judge sentenced both CNT leaders for violating the State Security Law. Bustos and Martinez were charged with committing a crime classified under Article 8 of this law, punishing all those who call for stoppages.

There has been no pardon with regard to the penalty, which means that both Bustos and Martinez will be detained and taken to prison.

Dreyse also sentenced political leader Moises Labrana to a 61-day suspended prison sentence.

Supreme Court Upholds Almeyda Sentence

PY270149 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Clodomiro Almeyda, president of one of the factions of the Socialist Party, will have to abide by the sentence imposed by the Constitutional Court which took away his civil rights for 10 years for eulogizing terrorism and violence.

Today the Supreme Court rejected the appeal submitted on Almeyda's behalf by his lawyers, who asked that the application of the antiterrorist law be declared unconstitutional. [passage omitted]

Christian Left To Participate in Plebiscite

PY270146 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The Christian Left has decided to participate in the upcoming plebiscite, according to an announcement made by the political committee of that political organization.

The Christian Left was one of the last small parties that had not yet stated its position regarding the plebiscite. The plebiscite is established by the 1980 Constitution which, in turn, was approved by the majority of the country. The only political group which has maintained the position of not participating in the plebiscite is the outlawed Communist Party.

Broadcasters Oppose Creation of Radio Council

PY252048 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1511 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Santiago, 23 Jan (EFE)—The Association of Chilean Broadcasters (ARCHI) has reiterated its criticism of a draft law that creates the National Radio and Television Council, and has stressed that the law is inappropriate and unnecessary.

In a report published by the local press today, the broadcasters recalled that in August 1986 they stated that the enforcement of new broadcasting regulations "generally serves to impose legal restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom to design radio programs, and individual initiative."

ARCHI charges that, through the draft law, the Chilean regime "seeks to establish something like its own penal system, sidelining the courts."

ARCHI, which represents over 300 Chilean radio stations, criticizes the excessive government presence in the proposed National Radio and Television Council, adding that the law should guarantee the council's independence and impartiality.

One Killed, Two Injured in Santiago Attack

PY271524 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Carabineros Major Julio Benimeli was killed and Carabineros Lieutenants Daniel Rojas Rivera and Alejandro Pavez Beltran and a Carabineros corporal were seriously injured in a terrorist attack in La Cisterna District. All are members of the Carabineros Special Operations Group (GOPE).

The attack occurred shortly after 2200 last night in a house at 10990 Los Maquis Street, at the corner of A. Varas St. in the (Lo Lillo) section of La Cisterna District.

Maj Benimeli, Lt Rojas, and Lt Pavez went to the house in response to a report that weapons and subversive material were in the residence. A powerful booby trap was detonated, killing the major and seriously injuring the two lieutenants. Esteban Venegas Fuentes, the owner of the house, was also seriously injured, and his sister Ximena was slightly injured.

Esteban Venegas Fuentes filed the appropriate report with the (Lo Lillo) Carabineros precinct after the tenant who was renting the house telephoned Venegas at his place of work near the (Franquen) slaughterhouse and told him that he and his wife were leaving the house. The tenant, who said his name was (Esteban Notaro Larrozas), warned Venegas not to let anyone in the house because bombs had been planted in the house and patio. He said only Carabineros should be allowed into the house [passage omitted]

Colombia

Government Withdraws Currency in Circulation

PA261809 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1205 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 21 Jan (EFE)—The Colombian Government announced today that it will withdraw 100.1 billion pesos ($300 million) from circulation, the most dramatic measure taken in the past few years to fight Colombia's inflation.

The government tried to hold the 1987 inflation rate below 20 percent; however, because of a 33-percent increase in the amount of money in circulation (money in the public's hands or in checking accounts), the cost of living increased 24 percent in 1987.

Official sources said that by withdrawing currency in circulation, the government intends to hold the inflation rate below the 1987 goal and to reach an economic growth rate of 5 or 6 percent.

Eight Policemen Killed in Guerrilla Ambush

PA251833 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Eight policemen were killed by guerrillas today in an ambush 40 km from Bucaramanga. The policemen were traveling from Barrancabermeja back to the capital of Santander in three vehicles. The attack took place in a very narrow part of the road leading from Barrancabermeja to Bucaramanga, 2 km from the Sogamoso River bridge and 35 km from Barrancabermeja.

The policemen were returning from Barrancabermeja after participating in public order operations last week. The high-powered, homemade bomb was thrown from a roadside hill and hit the left side of the Ford bus, lifting it 20 meters. The fact that the policemen were caught by surprise and the other vehicles of the military convoy were some distance away prevented an immediate reaction. The convoy consisted of a bus carrying 40 policemen, a white Renault-12, and 2 smaller buses, one of which was attacked.

Briefs

Guatemalan Nuclear Energy Agreement

Bogota, 22 Jan (AFP)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco has signed into law a cooperation agreement between Colombia and Guatemala to develop and apply nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Colombian Institute of Nuclear Affairs and the Guatemalan Nuclear Energy Directorate will be in charge of implementing the agreement. Basically, cooperation will involved the following areas: basic and applied nuclear research (including chemistry, metallurgy, biology, geology, and engineering), production of radioisotopes and labeled molecules, nuclear safety, and radiology protection. The agreement also deals with matters regarding the protection of nuclear materials, removal of radioactive waste, nuclear information, and legal matters related to this field. [Excerpt] *[Paris AFP in Spanish 0515 GMT 23 Jan 88 PA]*

Paraguay

Interior Minister on Abrams Remarks, Church

PY162018 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Jan 88 p 8

[Text] In referring to the recent statement about Paraguay made by Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro today asserted that "we will say it once again: We are not going to tolerate foreigners, be they

diplomats or government officials, interfering in domestic affairs." The minister also referred to the document issued by the bishops this week.

When we asked his opinion about the recent criticism by Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, concerning the political and human rights situation in Paraguay, Interior Minister Dr Sabino Augusto Montanaro yesterday said: "When this Mr Abrams talks about Paraguay, we know what he wants and what he thinks about us. Once again we must say that we will not tolerate interference by foreigners, either diplomats or government officials, in our domestic affairs."

Montanaro added: "Thus, we could not care less—no matter how great the conceit of Mr Abrams, an official of a great power such as the United States of America. We do not accept trusteeships—and much less self-styled governors— for our countries as he intends, mistaking Paraguay for Puerto Rico. He is wrong. We accept the criticism, the recommendations, and the objections made about our administration by Paraguayans, by the Paraguayan people, and especially by the Colorado people, who, as we know, are a majority. In a democratic system the majority decides, and we will not tolerate meddling in our affairs, just as we do not intend to meddle in the great and many problems affecting the United States, beginning with their racial problems, and especially the U.S. people's desire for a better standard of living."

Montanaro added: "although we Paraguayans are few in number, we live well and we are happy and content under the Colorado administration of President Stroessner."

We asked Minister Montanaro for his opinion on the latest document released by the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference (CEP), a document reflecting the Paraguayan bishops' views on current issues that are a matter of concern to the Catholic Church.

Dr Montanaro said: "The document released by the CEP is an analysis made by the bishops, and we know their thinking. The people know that the absence of Msgr Ismael Rolon from the Council of State, of which he is a member, shows once again the beliefs of a man who does not observe the constitutional laws and who tells the parishoner whatever he wants in his personal communiques or in the CEP communiques. He could have said this verbally at the Council of State. However, he does not observe the Constitution."

Montanaro added: "Let them believe they are right concerning their reviews and their criticism. We also believe that we are right when we say that there is peace; that there are no revolutions, kidnappings, attacks, or crimes; and that the people live happily. We saw this on 8 December in Caacupe, where the people surrounded them, the bishops. All the bishops were there. We saw how the people attended. We saw the people content and happy. The people have work. You, the journalists, also know the way we live and how the people return to their homes. Those who are taken to police precincts and interrogated and kept there, away from their normal activities, should be able to figure out why the government acts that way: It does it to defend peace and the institutions."

Editorial Views U.S. Embassy-Sponsored Program

PY161823 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 14 Jan 88 p 7

[Editorial: A Worthy North American Man]

[Text] We have always said, regarding the United States and the North-American people, that for each denigrating Watsburn and each intriguing Robert White [former U.S. ambassador to Paraguay], there will always be a Rutherford B. Hayes or a Robert T. MacMahon [U.S. ambassador to Paraguay during the Triple Alliance War] to level out the "gaps" and restore the open and fruitful relations between our country and the United States.

We have witnessed many tantrums, many imperialistic and vicious paternatistic attitudes, but they were all mere anecdotes and fizzled out like a tempest in a teapot. The most serious case was the "Wasp" case in Carlos Antonio Lopez' time [reference unknown]. However, that case left no scars for the simple reason that we shared the same principles of freedom and sovereignty that today rule the political development of the Western world, free of imported patterns.

For each U.S. citizen that sees a fold or stain where there is nothing but a crease or spot there will be another equally important or more important U.S. citizen who will see things from a different viewpoint and rescue the inherent affection that the Paraguayans have toward Washington's and Lincoln's fatherland. Although not much has been done to cultivate this feeling, it exists regardless of or even despite who governs that country which, as a world power, stands in the defense of our civilization.

Everything that MacMahon wrote in Elisa Lynch's album is highly applicable today and fits the new Paraguay. This is why we are so sensitive to the U.S. observations on what happens beyond its borders, in the most distant parts of the world. We are aware of the importance of the international commitments undertaken. However, we understand that they are not agreements between a metropolis and its colonies; rather, they are agreements between nations that are equal from the legal point of view despite the abysmal difference in size that may exist. And all the more reason if these differences do exist, because it is now unthinkable of resorting to Theodore Roosevelt's big stick policy or the massacres committed by General Custer in "the name of civilization."

The United States also has a bit of everything; there is no possibility of keeping quiet about the good aspects or of concealing the bad ones. Starting with the bad aspects, the first complaint is about the unfairness in an issue as delicate as a country's image. Paraguay's means of defending its image, when compared to the gigantic propaganda paraphernalia that the U.S. media have, are very limited. If U.S. technology is capable of finding a pin on the moon, it is definitely incomprehensible how it cannot distinguish Paraguay's reality from that of other countries against which it lodges no complaints despite the fact that "gaps" they reveal are bloodstained and show no sign of solution. This lack of prudence fits Watsburn and White, no matter who their tailor may be; but it does not fit someone like Hayes, Senator Long, and MacMahon who can see beyond their own noses.

The subject of this commentary is based on a recent statement by a worthy U.S. citizen, another name to add to the list of good U.S. citizens: Michael Novak. Speaking via satellite in a program sponsored, no less, by the U.S. Embassy, Novak uttered great truths, such as the following: Countries must resort to the strength of their own cultures when seeking effective political and social institutions.

According to the report, Novak added that "paraphrasing French writer Tocqueville, who visited the United States 150 years ago, this country's liberation from oppression and poverty would spread throughout the world, although he believed that the U.S. Constitution would not be good for France, for instance, because that country had a different history and culture." The same thing can be said about Paraguay, which is not of Anglo-Saxon but of Indo-American lineage, not a country of Puritan or Quaker but of Catholic extraction, and whose culture does not come from the fog of the Thames, but from the sunny Mediterranean coasts of Latinhood.

Doctor Novak, who was introduced as a professor, philosopher, and human rights expert, stayed away from any strict distinction between good and bad in order to soberly discharge the great responsibility of passing judgment on people, nations, and governments, since their variety can be infinite and the value judgements can be quite relative. This cannot be overlooked or underestimated if we are to coexist. We must abide by the law of equilibrium, an equilibrium that cannot be found at the middle point but at a point where the opposing forces balance regardless of the difference in their magnitudes.

Professor Novak made a severe self-criticism in that regard, saying that "one of the flaws of the American people and of our philosophers (and why not of ambassadors) is that we have not quite managed to enunciate and formulate our own ideology." This logically leads to the conclusion that if that happened to them, the Americans can hardly expect other people to have a uniform ideological standard; even less so, since "American society," as Prof Novak said, resulted from the merging of immigrants from different parts of the world.

We are of course in agreement with this remarkable American when he said that "economic growth is most important for the future of Latin America," but a growth that "begins at the base"; namely, with "the poor." He summed up his opinion by saying that "the economic opportunities should be expanded to the poor in our respective social areas." And what he said about people can also be applied to nations so that the terms of trade can be fairly balanced and equal sacrifice can be the rule of treatment. In this way, many human rights will be reasserted and others will attain the status they have in developed countries. In sum, each nation must give itself its own model of development, beginning at the base, which is comprised of the poor, who are more numerous. Paraguay is not at fault with these principles, because it has always set its priorities to satisfy the most strongly felt needs of the people.

Final Document on National Dialogue Issued

PY211310 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
20 Jan 88 p 8

[Text] The participants in a meeting sponsored by the Catholic Church have issued the final document of the National Dialogue. This document, which strongly demands the implementation of the Constitution as quickly as possible, was released yesterday to the media during a special meeting at the office of Jose Maria Bonin, president of the National Dialogue Executive Board.

The proposal, which has a political purpose, urges a constitutional reform in the medium term. Representatives of the political, social, and religious organizations; the news media; and the universities who attended the meeting sponsored by the church have stated, in the document, that this constitutional reform must guarantee an institutional reorganization and ensure that the current institutional ideology is replaced by the mentality of a democratic, open, pluralist, and participatory society.

The document is comprised of five parts and contains the chronology of the National Dialogue from its beginning; the names of the institutions invited to take part in the Dialogue and of those already participating; the final proposals; and an attachment containing recommended actions to implement the Dialogue. Regarding the feasibility of the proposals, the document says: "To achieve the planned institutional reorganization and to ensure that the Constitution is obeyed, pressure will have to be exerted on public opinion, and the social forces will have to be organized and strengthened in the political parties, labor unions, sectorial associations, and people's organizations. It is necessary to create an open society—democratic and pluralist—to strengthen the civilian society at all levels."

At the economic level, the final document proposes a new policy "that adopts a number of measures to free the majority of the people from their sufferings," and that recommends, in some cases, the renegotiation of the foreign debt, the extension of deadlines, and the reduction of interest rates.

At the social and cultural levels, those participating in the National Dialogue agree on the necessity of asking for "freedom to create organizations." The document says: "The lack of official recognition for the organizations created by the people makes these organizations illegal, and the regime represses all illegal activities."

We must point out that it is not up to the church to make the final conclusions. The organizations that participated in the discussions on the National Dialogue, which began on 10 May 1986 and ended with the meetings held from 12 to 14 December 1987, when the final recommendations and proposals were approved, must make the final conclusions and take the final steps.

Two Colorado Traditionalist Members Arrested

PY221453 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Jan 88 p 6

[Excerpt] Two more young members of the Traditionalist faction of the Colorado Party were arrested on 20 January for unknown reasons. Felipe Melgarejo and Ramon Candia Sanguina, members of the Colorado Nationalist Alliance, a group within the Traditionalist faction, are probably being held at the Central Police Headquarters, according to family sources. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Malmierca Supports L.A.-Caribbean Integration

PY271954 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1559 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Jan (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said Latin American and Caribbean countries must struggle for integration because in the future "our continent will play an important role in the international economy."

Malmierca made this comment before the committee of ALADI representatives, who today received him during a special session at the ALADI organization's permanent seat in Montevideo.

The Cuban foreign minister today ends his 4-day visit to Uruguay, where he was received by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Malmierca said Cuba supports "all efforts" aimed at Latin American integration, wishes "success" to efforts made "in the name of common interests," and hopes that "the destinies of our countries are united, to forge a better future."

Malmierca pointed out that Latin America and the Caribbean region "will only play" their roles fully and will only be able to defend their interests and goals "if they work closely together and succeed in obtaining a real economic integration to make their national economies more effective."

This integration will "allow" these countries to better use their natural resources, and "to consolidate their independence, thus raising their peoples' standard of living. It will eliminate injustices, poverty, poor health conditions and facilities, and the lack of education that currently enslave broad parts of our continent," Malmierca said.

This integration process "will involve us in a difficult future with a protracted fight, but it will also lead us toward the secure victory called for by the fraternal peoples of Latin American and the Caribbean region."

Nicaragua's Cardenal Pays Brief Visit

PY271227 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has invited Uruguayan officials to visit that country in order to verify in person that the state of emergency and other measures are being lifted, as agreed upon at the Central American summit.

Nicaraguan Education Minister Ernesto Cardenal yesterday paid a brief visit to Montevideo to meet with Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias as part of a tour through the Contadora Group member countries—Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico—and the Contadora Support Group countries—Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.

Iglesias on Central American Peace Process

PY251620 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0159 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 23 Jan (EFE) —Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias today said that U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras "is not helping the peace process in Central America."

Iglesias said, however, that "the U.S. aid is an element that should give impetus to the peace talks."

In statements to the press, the Uruguayan minister described as "very positive" the talks between the Sandinist government and the contra representatives. He also said he hopes that a ceasefire will be declared soon "since it is the most important thing." [passage omitted]

Iglesias said: "The Central Americans have taken their destiny into their own hands" after the Esquipulas peace agreements, "and this is favorable."

The Uruguayan minister said that "although not all the points of the Esquipulas agreements were complied with, important progress has been made." As examples of such progress he mentioned the amnesty declared in some countries and the talks among the different parties. [passage omitted]

Iglesias' Candidacy Submitted to IDB

PY201407 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Uruguayan Embassy in Washington has confirmed that the candidacy of Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias for IDB president has been submitted to this institution. Diplomatic sources in Washington today stated that Iglesias' candidacy will be formally announced after the summit of the Brazilian, Argentine and Uruguayan presidents in Uruguay next week. Although the Uruguayan Embassy has already confirmed Iglesias' candidacy, the IDB press office has not released any report about it.

In Montevideo, Iglesias has reiterated that the issue is being discussed and that nothing has been decided yet.

Threats Made Against Deputy Drafting Drug Law

PY271733 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0420 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Jan (EFE)— According to Interior Minister Antonio Marchesano, Uruguayan police today began investigating a series of threats made against opposition Deputy Carlos Negro, who is drafting a law against drug trafficking in the country.

In a news conference, Negro said he has received several threats, and that "recent ones were from older people," not just from young drug addicts.

The leftist "Broad Front" coalition deputy said he decided to denounce the threats to the police because threats are now being made against his children.

Minister Marchesano admitted that drug traffickers are more active during the summer, mostly in the country's eastern region, where thousands of Argentine and Brazilian tourists enjoy their vacation. Marchesano added: "the police are on the alert and have been successful so far in controlling drug trafficking."

In the last few days, the police of Maldonado, 147 km east of Montevideo; and the police of Rocha, 360 km from Montevideo, detained 10 people who were connected with drug trafficking, and seized some 7 kilos of marijuana. Deputy Negro, who is a member of a Congress commission in charge of fighting drug trafficking, said he is in possession of "some confidential and authentic documents" showing that last May, several "kilos of cocaine and LSD, which are called hard and extremely dangerous drugs," entered the country.

Negro said he is concerned because "police have not reported on these drugs, only on marijuana, which is not known as a hard drug."

Negro said drug traffickers "act very cautiously" in Uruguay. He added, however, that these two more dangerous drugs are consumed in the country, mostly in Punta del Este.

He also said that in Uruguay all traffickers "are addicts; they are all sick people."

Briefs

Annual Inflation Rate Announced

The General Directorate of Statistics and Census has reported a 1.42-percent inflation rate for December 1987 and a 57.29-percent inflation rate for 1987. [Summary] *[Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Jan 88 PY]*

Suriname

New Government Sworn In; Ministers Announced

FL262035 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Today [as heard] at 12 noon, the new government in Suriname was sworn in. Until Sunday, talks were still being held between candidates and President Shankar and Vice President Arron. The latter will be presiding over the Council of Ministers.

There are now 13 ministries in the new government, one less than in the previous government, now that the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has been disbanded. The Ministries of Public Health and Finance still have the same ministers as in the previous government. They are Henk Alimahomed and Soebhas Mungras, respectively. Former Prime Minister Pretaap Radhakishun is now the minister of natural resources and energy, while Mr (Ian Kipusatsin) is the new minister of public works, telecommunications, and construction. Mr (Ronald Seeshant) will be the minister of education, science, culture, sports, and youth affairs. Mr (E. Seduck) is the new minister of foreign affairs, while Mrs (Freida Alexander Sanomber)—the only woman in the new cabinet—is minister of home affairs, district administration, and people's mobilization. Mr (Frepp) is minister of transport, trade, and industries, and (Romeo Wareso) of the (?De Moederbond) Trade Union Federation, taking over the ministry of labor portfolio. The minister of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries, is Mr (Rijo Sinbuno), while Mr Willie Soemita is minister of social affairs and housing. The minister of justice and police is Mr (Ayoya), while the mantle of the Ministry of Army is going to Major (Shai Karim). The new government will be in office for a 5-year term.

Shankar Speech

FL262055 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The basic condition for the realization of our wishes and initiatives is that our country needs peace and brotherhood in any level. These were the words of President Shankar after his installation at the national indoor stadium yesterday. He referred to the November 25th elections which were, according to him, a demonstration of joint belief in the constitutional state and in the values and institutions of the democratic system. Our people have shown that they yet have to come to political maturity and have solely debated for further growth to mature democracy, said the president. He called on all political parties, functional groupings, the labor movement, trade, and industries, the press, and the armed forces, to constantly act in the general interest and in the interest of democracy.

Shankar is of the opinion that the historic, cultural, and economic relations with Holland and the presence of a lot of groups of Surinamese nationals in that country make the maintenance of good relations with it very important. This is why we will strive for the normalization of the relationship, which has been strained for so long, said the president, adding that equality and respect for one another are the basis for the normalization of the relations.

Arron Address

FL272055 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tranquillity, harmony, confidence, discipline, and sacrifice are indispensable factors on the road to a new horizon. This was stated by Minister Henck Arron yesterday during the installation of the new Council of Ministers in the Presidential Palace. According to Arron, the ministers have as their highest obligation promotion of the morality of the country and the people. The prime minister singles out as the three main pillars for his new team, clean government, eradication of corruption, and continuance of the democratization of the society. We have to adjust our wishes and aspirations to our own conditions which we shall have to create ourselves, said Arron. He added that for realizing social-economic development, cooperation with other countries and institutions will be needed.

Arron Refers to Refugees

FL272104 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] As soon as possible, conditions will be created to facilitate the return of the thousands of Surinamese from French Guiana, as stated by Prime Minister Arron yesterday after the installation of the new government. Solving the problems in the interior, especially those in the eastern part of the country, is primarily a Surinamese matter and Suriname's responsibility, said Arron. He added that in the opinion of the government, every Surinamese wants the problems to be solved. The prime minister concluded his maiden speech with emphasizing the new government's strife after bringing tranquillity in the society at short notice.

Lachmon Speaks

FL262355 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] I thank the president and the vice president for their willingness to be the first to take up the task of protectors of democracy.

This was stated yesterday by Assembly Chairman Mr Jaggernath Lachmon after President Shankar and Vice President Arron were sworn in. The ceremony took place at the National Indoor Stadium during an extraordinary public meeting of the National Assembly.

Mr Lachmon said that with the cooperation of the military leaders and on the basis of national unity, a model of cooperation was designed through which the transition to democratic structures was realized. The basis was laid on November 23, 1985 when the partners in the dialogue—namely, the military authority and the political parties VHP [Progressive Reform Party], NPS [National Party of Suriname], and KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party]—issued a solemn declaration.

The assembly chairman said that the president and vice president, in executing their tasks, will have to keep in mind the principles of freedom, democracy, and unity as their starting points.

Mr Lachmon furthermore thanked the numerous representatives of friendly nations and international organizations who were present at the ceremony yesterday.

Bouterse Refuses Contact With Defense Minister

FL272150 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] This morning, in the (Mibiribuko Barracks), the military said good-bye to departing minister of army and police, Mr Maynard. After 5 years in office, Mr Maynard is now succeeded by Major (Shai Karim), who was installed yesterday as minister of defense. At the ceremony, the complete military authority was present and its chairman, Commander Bouterse, in a short speech said he had refused any contact with Mr (Shai Karim) to avoid influence on his decision concerning the ministry. Mr (Shai Karim) was brought in with a notation from [words indistinct] and in a speech to them he said to count on the support in carrying out his task as minister of defense.

Secrecy on Naming New Ministers Criticized

FL272121 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The DE WEST newspaper, in an editorial on the new governing team yesterday, wrote that expectations were high and that the Surinamese people desire development and prosperity in tranquillity, harmony, and freedom. The people, however, made the critical note because the names of the new ministers were only made known when the ministers were installed and not before. They termed the secrecy as lack of openness. The people expressed the hope that this will be only one incident and that in the future the people will be informed in time about matters of the state. If this does not happen, people will become uninterested said DE WEST.

The other newspaper, the DE WARE TIJD daily could not comment on the recent events because it is not published because of lack newsprint. A new shipment of newsprint is expected later this week and the DE WARE TIJD hopes it can start printing again very soon after having been closed for about a month now.